

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4, and 11 are amended. New claim 19 is added. Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Reconsideration of the claims as amended, in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

SPECIFICATION

The Office at page 2 of the Action requests applicant to correct any errors in the specification which applicant becomes aware. The Office's request is acknowledged.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

A telephone interview was conducted on August 31, 2010 between the Examiner and the applicant's representatives, Hiroshi Aida and Ryusuke Satoh, and agent Terry Tsai. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of the interview.

In the interview, the parties discussed claim 1 over the cited Muramatsu reference (U.S. Patent 7,471,955). Applicant noted that while Muramatsu at col. 7, lines 13-39 discussed a differential D-GPS position measuring system, Muramatsu did not teach or suggest "said control unit performs the display by said second display processing when detecting a drop in precision of said geomagnetic sensor in displaying said map." The Examiner agreed to reconsider the grounds for the rejections.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as indefinite, because claim 1 recites "the map" without adequate antecedent basis. Claims 2-17 are rejected for being dependent from claim 1. Claim 1 is amended, and the term "the map" is amended to "a map." Thus, the 112 rejections to claims 1-17 should be withdrawn.

Moreover, claims 4 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph for allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Action at page 3 states:

Claims 4 and 11 require one of the three conditions (detection values exceeding a predetermined value, not meeting a predetermined value, or not being stable occurs) and a time that said state continues is within a predetermined time. It appears undue experimentation is required because it is not readily clear which of the three conditions would satisfy adding (note and linking the three

choices) a time that said state continues is within a predetermined time. (Emphasis original).

Claims 4 and 11 are amended to recite "a time that said detected state continues is within a predetermined time." Thus, the amended claims 4 and 11 provide that one of the three states is detected, and the detected state continues within a predetermined time. Since the state that continues within a predetermined time is specified, no experimentation is needed to practice the invention.

For the above reasons, 112 rejections to claims 4 and 11 should be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Muramatsu (U.S. Patent 7,471,955). Applicant submits that the claims of present application patently distinguish over the cited art.

Claim 1 recites:

A mobile map display apparatus provided with
a geomagnetic sensor for detecting earth-magnetism,
a display unit, and
a control unit able to calculate a geographical bearing based
on detection values of said geomagnetic sensor and having a first
display processing for display in a direction linked with said calculated
bearing when acquiring a map and making said display unit display
the map and a second display processing for display fixed to a
predetermined bearing, wherein
said control unit performs the display by said second display
processing when detecting a drop in precision of said geomagnetic
sensor in displaying said map.

An example of the above limitations can be found in applicant's specification at FIG. 23 and the accompanying text. For ease of reference, FIG. 23 is shown below.

FIG. 23

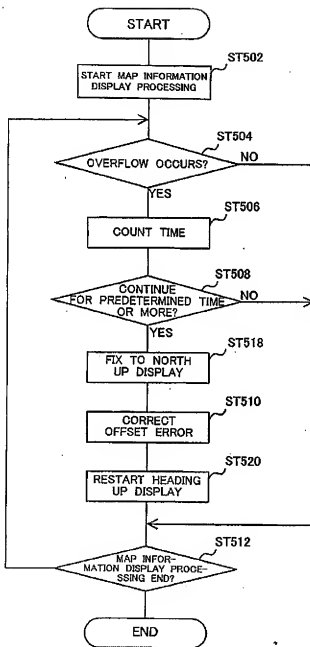


FIG. 23 at ST504, ST506, and ST508 provides an example of "detecting a drop in precision of said geomagnetic sensor." In this example, the drop in precision is determined when the detection values of the geomagnetic sensor 158 enter into a predetermined abnormal state (ST504). An example of the "predetermined abnormal state" is a state where "overflow occurs in any of the 8 bits of the detection values expressed by whole number values of from '0' to '255' (that is any of the X-axis, Y-axis, and Z-axis earth-magnetism detection values) and the values thereof become the maximum value '255' or the minimum value '0'" (see published specification, U.S. Publication 2007/0233381 at paragraphs 223 and 224). Further, when an upper limit value and a lower limit value is prescribed, any one of the earth-magnetism detection values being out of this normal range may also be defined as an abnormal state (id.)

At ST508, the apparatus determines whether the "drop in precision of said geomagnetic sensor" is detected, when the abnormal state has lasted for a predetermined period of time. When the "drop in precision of said geomagnetic sensor" is detected, the heading of the display is fixed to north (ST518).

The cited art does not anticipate the claim 1, because the cited art does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1. For example, Muramatsu does not teach or suggest, at least, the limitation "said control unit performs the display by said second display processing when detecting a drop in precision of said geomagnetic sensor in displaying said map." The Action cites Muramatsu at col. 7, lines 13-39 as disclosing information corresponding to that limitation. Applicant disagrees with that assertion.

Muramatsu at col. 7, lines 13-39 discusses measuring a position of a mobile phone 1 based on the D-GPS position measuring system, but Muramatsu does not teach or suggest "a drop in precision of said geomagnetic sensor." In particular, the cited portion of Muramatsu discusses using a GPS base station as the fixed station of the D-GPS position measuring system. The position measuring data acquired by the mobile phone 1 (GPS module 11) is transmitted to the GPS base station. The precise position measuring calculation is carried out in this GPS base station, and the calculated positional information (the latitude/the longitude) of the present address is returned to the mobile phone 1 (id.) However, Muramatsu does not teach or suggest a drop in precision of the geomagnetic sensor, as required by claim 1.

Mover, given that Muramatsu does not teach or suggest a drop in precision of the geomagnetic sensor, Muramatsu does not teach or suggest "said control unit performs the display

by said second display processing when detecting a drop in precision of said geomagnetic sensor in displaying said map." (Emphasis added).

For the above reasons, claim 1 is allowable over the cited art. Claims 2-17 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and therefore, claims 2-17 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claim 18 recites analogous limitations discussed above not taught or suggest by the cited art, including the limitation "when detecting a drop in precision at said map displaying step, the display is performed by said second display processing step." Likewise, claim 18 is allowable over the cited art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 102 rejections and allowance of claims 1-18 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4600 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

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Respectfully submitted,

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